

[10 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

**Production of Pulses**

†2028. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is less production of pulses as against their demands in the country continuously for the last so many years;
- (b) if so, whether Government have formulated any action plan to make the country self sufficient in the field of production of pulses.
- (c) if so, the outlines of that action plan and whether any time limit has been fixed to make the country self sufficient in production of pulses; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
(SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) It is a fact that the production of pulses is less than the demand of pulses in the country, because of several constraints like cultivation by small and marginal farmers, on marginal lands and under rainfed conditions.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The production and consumption of pulses in the country during the last 3 years is given below:

| Year    | Production<br>(Lakh Tonnes) | Consumption<br>(Lakh Tonnes) |
|---------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1996-97 | 142.44                      | 148.60                       |
| 1997-98 | 129.80                      | 133.60                       |
| 1998-99 | 148.09                      | 148.90                       |

(b) To make the country self sufficient in the field of production of pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is being implemented in the country for increasing the production and productivity of pulses.

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission has fixed a production target of pulses for the DC Plan *i.e.* 2001-2002 at 16.5 million tonnes to make the country self sufficient in pulses production. The Govt, of India is making all efforts to achieve the targeted production of pulses. For increasing the production of pulses a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is under implementation in 25 States^ UTs. The scheme envisages financial assistance to the States for production and distribution of Certified Seeds, seed minikits, rhizobium culture, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements etc. In addition, field demonstration and farmers training are also being organised for the transfer of improved production and protection technology to the farmer's field for increasing the production of pulses.